3-18-15

CONVERSION THERAPY
DOES IT WORK?
OPINION 3

FROM UCLA TO VALLEY
CRUCIBLE CHARACTER
VALLEY LIFE 4

BOHEMIAN-CHIC
CAMPUS STYLE.
VALLEY LIFE 4

KEEPING THE TEAM AFLOAT
PROFILE ON HEAD COACH
SPORTS 5

THE VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 82, ISSUE NO. 3 MARCH 18, 2015 WWW.THEVALLEYSTAR.COM

VALLEY LIFELINE

For whom the Pell tolls

■ **Don't assume Financial Aid qualifies for all college students.**

BY AMANDA CAVARETTA
COPY EDITOR

Paying for college can be costly; tuition, textbooks, enrollment fees and transportation are only a few of the expenses college students face. Financial help is available through federal funding for students who qualify.

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) overall distributes $250 million within the nine campuses per year. In the past few years, Valley College has distributed over $30 million in financial aid annually. Of that $30 million, about 80 percent - $24 million - is made up of federal Pell Grants.

According to Financial Aid Manager Vernon Bridges, about 70 percent of Valley students collect some form of financial aid, typically the Pell.

"If a student doesn't qualify for the Pell Grant, they will most likely not qualify for any grant," said Bridges. "The Pell Grant sets the tone."

To receive aid for the upcoming fall semester, students are advised to fill out their free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for next year no later than Aug. 1. Because applications take months to process, the longer a student waits to apply for FAFSA, the less likely it is they will receive their funding the first week of fall semester.

Funds are granted to applicants based on Department of Education criteria including their citizenship, income, and student status. Applicants must also have high school diplomas.

One of the most common errors applicants make is putting their parents' information instead of their own. When applications are being processed, eligibility can decrease based on parents' income.

Do not duplicate applications. When filing a FAFSA, save the pin number you create somewhere safe. Access only that application.

Bridges says many students don't think they qualify when in actuality, they do.

"A student must apply to really find out what they can qualify for," said Bridges.

A free application can be filled out at: https://fafsa.ed.gov/

Students can visit the Financial Aid Office located in the Admissions & Records building to fill out their applications. Student helpers are available in the computer lab to assist with any questions.

MIRROR IMAGE

GUILLERMO MARTINEZ/VALLEY STAR

REFLECTING - Professor Jason Kunke hard at work setting up artwork before Thursday's "Site Unseen: Incaceration" event at Valley College's art gallery.

Working students can not afford to quit jobs

■ **Students working through school often don't qualify for free financial aid.**

BY KIMIYA MANOOCHEHRI
CONTRIBUTOR TO THE STAR

Financial aid isn't a burden for most community-college students until they transfer to four-year schools. But then, those who need grants the most often get caught in a Catch-22 that has made them increasingly reliant on loans.

Californian community colleges have the lowest fees in the country, according to a report by the Public Policy Institute of California, with only 4 percent of students needing to take out loans, compared to the national average of 21 percent. At Valley College, that means of the $30-to-35 million allocated to financial aid every year, only about $1 million is in loans, according to Financial Aid Manager Vernon Bridges. The number of four-year university students incurring debt, however, is more than 10 times the community college figure, and growing. According to the PPI report, 10 years ago, "less than one-third of California freshmen [at four-year universities] took out student loans, today, almost half do so."

"I've sold off more than half the things that I own..."

- Aldo Felix

Aldo Felix, 25, transferred to CSUN from College of the Canyons and is now heavily reliant on loans, though he works full-time to pay for his education. He has been working at Trader Joe's for the past eight years, and though his income is less than $22,000 per year, that prices him out of the bracket to receive grants as set by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

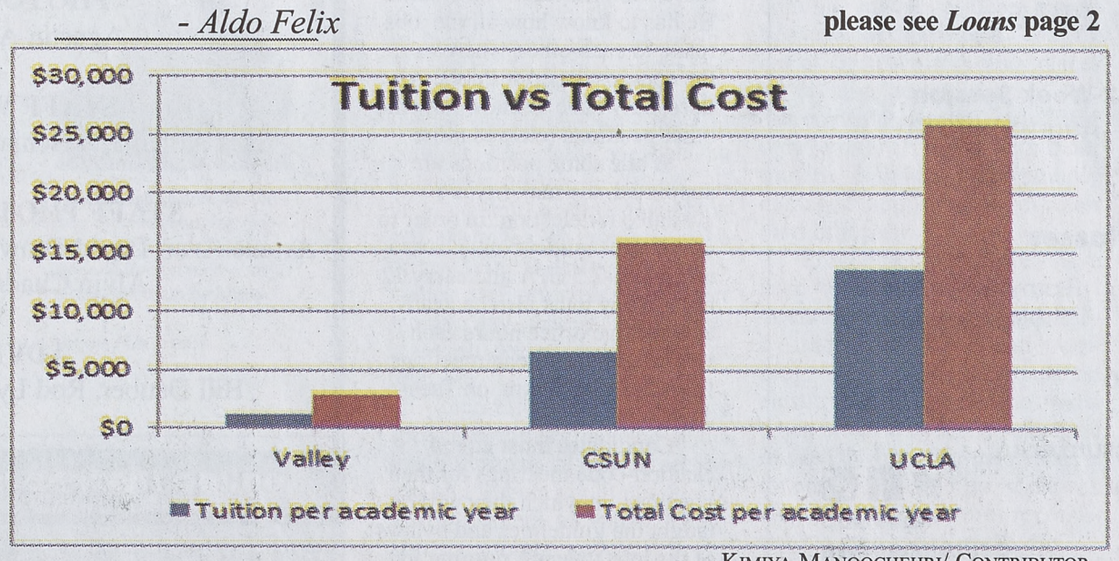
"Because I don't get any grants," Felix says, "I have to continually work 40 hours a week and struggle with school. It's not like I can focus on being 100 percent a student. I have to work, and then I'm a student second."

After transferring from community college, the cost of attending school skyrocketed for Felix. The cost of attendance for a Valley student living with family averages $2,931 per academic year. This number is comprised of in-state tuition, fees, books and supplies. The same compiled cost for CSUN students living at home is $15,898. At UCLA, it is $25,992.

"Most of our students hardly spend any money at all in terms of actually going here," says Bridges. "Most inquiries we get here are about personal expenses. Rent, other living expenses, that's where we hear the bulk of our concerns. It's not usually about paying for tuition; it's everything else outside of that."

The FAFSA formula determines the Cost of Attendance (COA) at the school you are enrolled in, then subtracts your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to determine how much you will need to pay for the remainder of your education. According to SimpleTuition.

please see *Loans* page 2



KIMIYA MANOOCHEHRI/ CONTRIBUTOR

A LOAN ON THE WILD, WILD SEA - Community college students usually don't need loans - until they transfer to four-year schools, and their cost of attendance skyrockets.

Monarchs welcome to run for ASU office

■ **Associated Student Union accepting applications.**

BY SARA ALMALLA
STAFF WRITER

Avid readers of the Valley Star and those involved in many on-campus activities have probably heard of the Associated Student Union, but to the majority of Valley College students, the letters A-S-U may not mean anything. Surprise! You pay for the ASU, and they control student-funded events and projects.

The ASU is the student government. Their main purpose is to sponsor activities, clubs and on-campus events such as last week's Club Day.

As commissioner of Public Affairs, Austin Smith stated, "[The ASU] represents the will of the students through campus legislation."

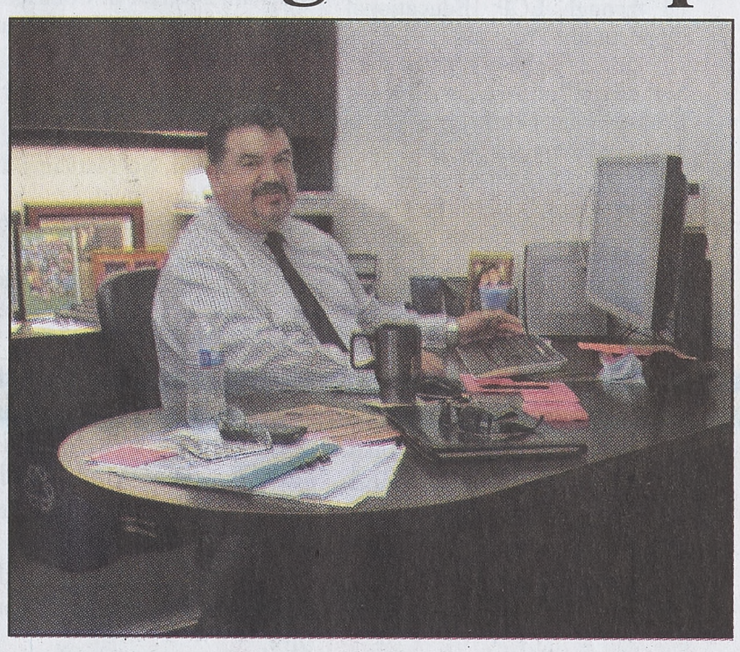
"You want someone representing you that is in the same position as you," Smith said. Someone who carries the same interests. So it is very important that you have student leaders as a liaison to the faculty. If not, then you have a large bureaucracy and it becomes difficult to have ties between the students and the staff."

This semester's ASU election campaigns have already begun. The candidates will be lobbying for votes until April 21 and 22, when the elections will take place.

The commissioner positions, such as athletics, ethnic and cultural, fine arts, and so on, represent their respective departments and create relations with associated clubs. The commissioners of the Campus and Environmental affairs and of the Evening Division are among the most important positions, according to Smith, who explained how they have been tackling campus lighting issues. Smith said they had discovered

please see *Elections* page 2

Seasoned, open, and eager to help



ARIANE AZAR/VALLEY STAR

GETTING TO WORK - New Dean of Student Success Marco De La Garza is eager to start aiding students at Valley College.

BY ZAIDA DIAZ
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Valley's Student Services department appointed Marco De La Garza as dean of the relatively new Student Success and Support Program (SSSP), which provides assistance to students through admissions, orientation, assessment, counseling, and student follow-up so that they can accomplish their educational goals.

According to Florentino Manzano, vice president of student Services, there were over 100 candidates considered for this position and De La Garza was one of three finalists.

President Erika Endrijonas conducted the final interview and determined that he would be the right fit for Valley. "He has the necessary experience and an engaging personality, both of which are required to be successful in this position," said Endrijonas.

"I think a lot of the times, 'the dean' sort of scares people; hopefully that's not the perspective people will take," said De La Garza. "I would prefer to be a recruiter or counselor because interacting with students is rewarding, but being in an administrative position, it allows me to hopefully open the doors for more students."

De La Garza is originally from Monterrey, Mexico. However, he was raised in downtown Los Angeles, where he graduated from Belmont

please see *Success* page 2

'Loans' *continued from page 1*

remainder of your education. According to SimpleTuition.com, FAFSA does not take factors motivating a student to work into consideration, but simply counts income as another source of college funding." Felix falls in the Catch-22 demographic: His full-time work drives his EFC out of grant range, but combined with loans is still short of his needs.

Both grants and loans can be awarded through federal, state, school-specific and private institutions, grants being awarded without interest or future cost to the student, and loans accruing interest as they are eventually paid back. The majority of Valley financial aid is awarded through federal Pell Grants, while the most popular borrowing arrangements are subsidized loans, which do not compile interest while the borrower is in school.

"I only take subsidized loans because I don't want to pay interest, so I get $2,500 a semester and the rest of it goes straight to my other credit card or out of my pocket," says Felix. "I've actually sold a lot of musical equipment just to make up the rest of the payment, because I've still got to pay for parking and I've got to buy books, so every semester that's an extra grand I've got to come up with."

"I've sold off more than half the things that I own."

FAFSA does not consider special circumstances unless students file appeals.

Bridges says, "Financial aid doesn't turn its back on people who are actually trying and earning a living, but it's not secret if someone is homeless or has no income at all then they're going to get more money than someone who has a job, whether it's part-time or not. That's just the way it goes.

"You could have someone that is not working but has a lot of money saved versus someone who is working and has two kids and this, that and the other, and they may get the same amount of money – you just never know."

Bridges urges students to utilize the appeals process since the FAFSA, according to Valley's Financial Aid Manager, "doesn't tell the whole story."

Meanwhile, cash-strapped students try not to lose hope.

Before CSUN, says Felix, "I thought I was probably going to law school, but now I'm realizing … you don't really have the financial support you think you would have. It just discourages you. I feel like I'm punished because I work to survive." "You could have someone that is not working but has a lot of money saved versus someone who is working and has two kids and this, that and the other, and they may get the same amount of money – you just never know."

Bridges urges students to utilize the appeals process since the FAFSA, according to Valley's Financial Aid Manager, "doesn't tell the whole story."

Meanwhile, cash-strapped students try not to lose hope.

Before CSUN, says Felix, "I thought I was probably going to law school, but now I'm realizing … you don't really have the financial support you think you would have. It just discourages you. I feel like I'm punished because I work to survive."

ZAIDA DIAZ/VALLEY STAR

STILL STANDING - Former Monarch Aldo Felix remains grounded despite working to pay off loans as a CSUN student.

'Success' *continued from page 1*

High School.

"Initially I was not very into education or studies. I was very lucky to have good mentors," he said. "One teacher that really got interested in me was Sal Castro . . . he got me to apply to Cal State Northridge and I was accepted through EOP [Educational Opportunity Program]."

De La Garza graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Chicano Studies from Northridge. While studying there, he worked as a recruiter and often went back to his old high school to recruit.

"The more I was working with students, I realized that I started liking the idea of being able to serve that way," he said.

Shortly after graduating, he was offered a job at CSUN in the health-science field. He later was hired as the Recruitment Coordinator for the College of Engineering and Computer Science, where he recruited 80 students who were underrepresented in that field.

Also, De La Garza served as Assistant Director of Counseling in the Financial Aid office and EOP for 12 years at CSUN.

More recently, he worked at Pierce College as Dean of Student Services and Director of Financial Aid, Scholarships and Veterans Department.

When the opportunity arose to work with the Student Success and Support Program at Valley, De La Garza was enthused.

"That piqued my interest because it combined everything I had done in the past into one little bubble," he said.

As new Dean of SSSP, De La Garza wants to make sure that students have access to tools that will help them graduate within two to three years.

"I am trying to learn as much as I can from all the areas that I oversee because if it's not broken, then why mess with it? But if I can provide a different perspective, coming from a different background, in working with the leads of each of the areas that I oversee then we're going to move forward together to help our students reach their goals."

News Briefs

■ **SUSPENDED -** Pennsylvania State University's Kappa Delta Rho has been suspended by the school for allegedly posting nude photos of women on Facebook. No arrests have been made.

■ **METH LAB -** A working meth lab was discovered inside a Muncie, Indiana Wal-Mart bathroom when an employee noticed a man go in a bathroom with a backpack and leave without one.

■ **VET CHARGED -** A U.S. Air Force veteran has been charged with attempting to aid Islamic State militants after trying to cross into Syria. He had been living in the middle east for over a year before his arrest.

Doers Do

CSULB Summer Sessions 2015

Two 6-Week Sessions
May 26–July 2 (S1S)
July 6–August 14 (S3S)

One 12-Week Session
May 26–August 14 (SSD)

More than 75 Online Summer Classes

No formal admission to CSULB required

Enroll on a "space available" basis

Earn units toward your degree

Registration begins April 6

(800) 963-2250 x60001 | info@ccpe.csulb.edu
www.ccpe.csulb.edu/summer

#DoersDo
@CSULBInterSessn

California State University, Long Beach
College of Continuing and Professional Education

Making the"Unseen" seen

■ **New exhibit at Valley College is a window to life behind bars.**

BY ZAIDA DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

"If you could have a window in your cell, what place from your past would it look out to?" This was the question Mark Strandquist asked of incarcerated people.

Upon entering Valley's art gallery, one's eye is immediately drawn to a 5' by 11' ft. letter, where a prisoner answers Strandquist's query by stating that his window would look out to his brother's tombstone in Glenwood Cemetery across from Beacon House field. The letter stands adjacent to a photograph, of the same size, depicting the prisoner's selected view; appropriately, the work is titled "Windows From Prison."

From installations of political artwork to photos of abandoned prisons and much more, "Site Unseen: Incarceration" tackles the theme of imprisonment through multiple lenses.

"It's a landscape that remains blank in the minds of most [people]," said curator Sheila Pinkel.

The exhibition is part of Pinkel's "Site Unseen" shows that highlight spaces the general public normally doesn't witness.

"Site Unseen: Incarceration" includes works of 14 artists, half of which are or have been incarcerated.

"It adds another dimension of power to the show, to include artwork and voices of people who are incarcerated," Pinkel said. "It was important to include statements of those people so their words can be heard too."

In Strandquist's project, the subject expresses memories he shared with his brother at Beacon House field; there they played many games together.

"This picture represents life and death. Obviously, you can see death, but you can't see is how much life was lived across the street," he said. "Me being a realist, I'd want to look out this window every day as a reminder of the good and bad of life."

People often stereotype incarcerated people, however his words tell a different story. One can empathize with the letter.

Behind this wall are incredibly detailed ink-pen and colored-pastel works by David Earl Williams, who is on death row at San Quentin State Prison.

In his artist statement, William's described himself as a "floor-sleeper" because his mattress is situated on the floor of his cell, so that he can use the metal bed-frame as a desk to complete his artwork.

As expressed in the statement, Williams' work reflects his inner self. "My spirit, thoughts, and dreams inspire me … along with the ongoing self-challenge to enhance upon my god-given abilities."

His drawing, "Mother and Child," is perhaps a memory of his own relationship with his mother. The piece depicts an African-American mother and child with their eyes closed and hands raised near their faces. The child's face expresses sorrow, while the mother's looks more relaxed; its almost like she's trying to soothe him. The pop of color in the background provides a big contrast to the ink-pen portrait of mother and child; it's simply stunning.

There is clearly passion behind each of William's works.

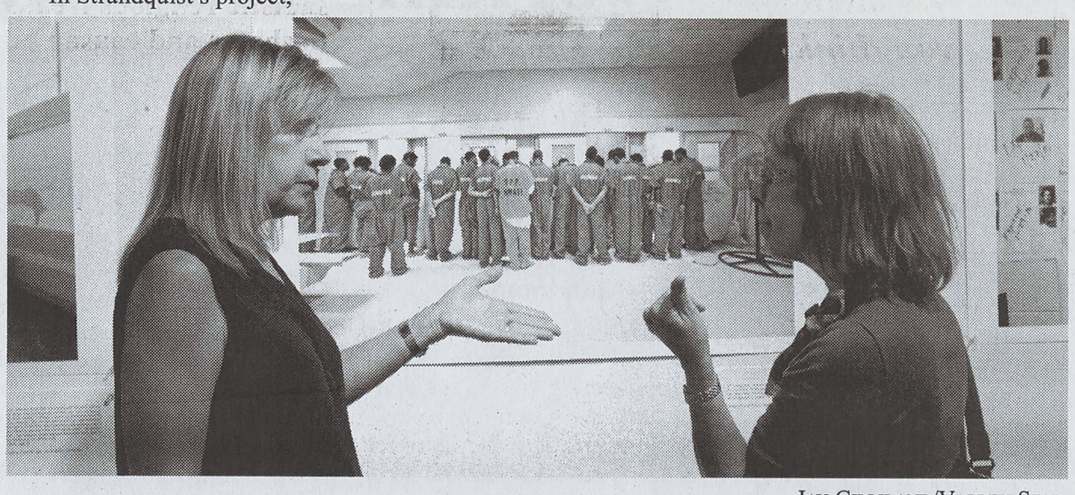
Toward the back of the gallery one is confronted by various linocut pieces by Brendan Murdock who was previously incarcerated in San Quentin. "In prison, it's not possible to do artwork which is not political," said Murdock. "The very act is one of resistance.

"8th Amendment Cuffed" is an example of Murdock's views on solitary confinement: he refers to the piece as an overt form of activism. It depicts a prison on the left and what looks like a psychiatric ward on the right with the words "mental illness" across its walls. The barbed-wire walls of the prison and meet in the middle with an image of a man in solitary confinement. At the very bottom it states, "The New Death Sentence."

Prisoners are typically placed in solitary confinement for violent or disruptive behavior; they are put in single-cell confinement for 23 hours daily. Murdock says, "Administrative Segregation [or solitary confinement] is a clear constitutional violation, an insidious exercise of cruel and unusual punishment."

Murdock's message is evident: the criminal justice system, as it's currently designed, needs to be repaired.

It's political and emotional pieces like these that allow viewers to dig a bit deeper into the lives of incarcerated people. They collectively come together to shape consciousness about U.S. incarceration.



JAY GILLILAND/VALLEY STAR

OBSERVING - Art Department Chair Eugenia Sumnik Levins (left), and Dean of Academic Affairs Laurie Nalepa discuss the "Orleans Parish Prison, New Orleans, Louisiana" photograph by Richard Ross.

'Elections' *continued from page 1*

a number of non-functioning lights, an issue of increased importance in the wake of last month's strong-arm robbery.

"These commissioners are in charge of fixing this issue as well as strengthening the escort services at night."

On the other hand, president, vice president and treasurer, or the officers, are supervisors. The president serves as a chairman in the executive council meetings, a liaison between the students and the staff, and the rules of order.

"The president is a little more complicated," Smith said. He has to know how all the jobs relate to each other, where as I, the commissioner of Public Affairs, only have to know how the other positions relate to mine."

While some positions are appointed, the majority are available for election. In order to qualify, the student must have a minimum-2.5 GPA and carry 12 units. They must also be available for five office hours each week and must attend meetings from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Candidates must attend election-code meetings for their positions, in which they will be taught the guidelines and bylaws of the jobs they are running for.

The last day to submit applications is March 24, 2015. Applications are available at the ASU Office, located on the second floor of the Student Services Center Building.

EDITOR IN CHIEF & NEWS EDITOR
Kevin Buckles Jr.

MANAGING EDITOR & SPORTS EDITOR
Jorge Belon

VALLEY LIFE EDITOR
Zaida Diaz

OPINION EDITOR
Julien Metzmeyer

ONLINE EDITOR
Monessa Chahayed

COPY EDITOR
Amanda Cavarretta

PHOTO EDITOR
Agustín Ángel Flores

STAFF WRITERS
Sara Almalla, Yesenia Burgara, Mikayla Foss

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Ariane Azar, David Dinwiddie, Guillermo Martinez, Alvin Cuadra, Maya Kay

ADVISORS
Bill Dauber, Rod Lyons, Michael Ordona

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Chip Rudolph

For additional content online - Go to www.thevalleystar.com

OPINION

SAE should have been DOA

■ Students were expelled for a racially slurred chant, but the core issue goes deeper than that.

BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A nine-second video has effectively, and deservingly, ruined the lives of Parker Rice, 19, and Levi Pettit, 20, for the foreseeable future, as they will now cease to exist at the University of Oklahoma (OU). Now if only the fraternity they were a part of can cease to exist nationwide as well.

The two former members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity, were expelled from OU on March 10 for leading a racially charged song, caught on video and posted online by Unheard, a black student group at the university. The chant, to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It," uses the "n-word" a number of times, proclaiming that a black person will never be able to join SAE, along with a verse alluding to the lynching of blacks.

The video has sparked nationwide outrage across the political spectrum as many have spoken out against the fraternity while there were protests all over OU's campus.

"I admit it was likely fueled by alcohol," said Rice in a statement after he was identified. "But that's not an excuse."

It is safe to assume that not everyone turns into a racist, leading Ku Klux Klan-like chants when alcohol is consumed. Rice might as well have stated "I am not myself when I'm hungry; I needed a Snickers."

But frat boys will be boys, right? Maybe they were just joking around.

"Stuff they think is funny, but I have a very hard time understanding how they can be true because the references are very historically specific," Ben Keppel, an OU history professor of 20 years, said to Oklahoma's News 9. "When you talk about, 'On a tree?' Come on, we all know what that is."

Perhaps trying to deflect blame, Rice said, "the song was taught to us." Those words should seal SAE's death warrant.

America's latest viral video star had admitted the chant did not just derive from drunk 19- and 20-year-olds. This is a motto that has been passed down year after year, decade after decade, and generation after generation.

"This is reflective of a larger issue," OU senior Marquis Ard, member of black fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha, told the New York Times. "If they're doing that on a charter bus, what are they doing in the library, at football games?"

SAE's rap sheet includes decades of racially charged incidents -- not just in Oklahoma, but also across the nation -- as well as a reputation for sexually assaulting women. At one point the frat was even being dubbed, "Sexual Assault Expected," acting as the acronyms "SAE."

As recently as December 2014, a chapter at Clemson University was suspended for hosting a racially themed "Cripmas" party. In 2006, the University of Memphis temporarily suspended its chapter after members made derogatory statements about the black girlfriend of a white frat member.

SAE chapters have been sanctioned and forced to participate in cultural awareness programs over frat members' offensive racial slurs and actions, in 10 separate instances since the 1980s. In 1982, the University of Cincinnati suspended its SAE chapter for two years after the frat hosted a party on the eve of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and passed out fliers encouraging attendees to bring canceled welfare checks and "radios bigger than your head." The flier also displayed a Ku Klux Klan hood, as well as a portrait of James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of King Jr.

Enough is enough. The two students certainly got what they deserved in expulsion for their role in the chant, but SAE must be shut down, effective immediately.

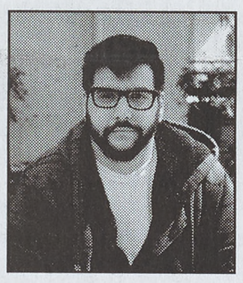
SARA ALMALLA/VALLEY STAR

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA - Where black people really hangout, and feel welcomed by all.

CampusView

What do you think about gay conversion therapy?

PHOTOS BY ARIANE AZAR, VALLEY STAR



"I'm against it 100%. It's ridiculous that one point in our country we would institutionalize and try to change people in such a way."

ASHOT NALBANDYAN
BIO-CHEMISTRY

"I think that if you are born a certain way, you cannot change the way you are through Gaay Conversion Therapy. It's the same if I was being "forced" to turn gay and like girls."

SARA TISHDIYAN
FILM

"It's stupid. You can't make someone change something they were born with. You can't fake love."

LUCY AKOPYAN
COMPUTER SCIENCE

"Stripping one's being with conversion therapy is harmful and desctructive. Just think about it, if the tables were turned would straight conversion therapy help?"

VICTORIA ALVARFADO
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

"I think that people are who they are and changing that is unnatural. Let people be gay and live on their own terms. Let them be happy."

SHAWN GRANZON
MUSIC

For additional content online, please visit: www.thevalleystar.com

Danger! Gays are among us

■ Gay conversion therapy is a new toy for sadistic religious freaks to shame and cause real psychological damage.

BY JULIEN J. METZMEYER
OPINION EDITOR

The eternal question -- is homosexuality a choice or not -- has been clearly answered by the scientific community but some people confronted with their own fears still think it is and use the gay conversion therapy so they can fit people into a one-size-fits all box. The danger of the therapy is that it is causing some irreversible psychological damage especially to gay youth.

Dr. Jack Drescher, MD, fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a member of the DSM-5 work group on Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders said to Human Rights Campaign, "Not only is homosexuality not a choice, as most efforts to try and change a person's sexual orientation fail, but some attempts to change can cause harm and damage to an individual's well-being,"

According to the government's national health interview survey, 1.6 percent of adults self-identify as gay or lesbian, and 0.7 percent consider themselves bisexual....but 96.6 percent of the population self-identifies as straight.

If prevailing medical belief is that homosexuality is not a choice - therefore it is natural - what could be the objection to people being gay? Morality? "Morality" is defined by Oxford dictionaries as "a particular system of values and principles of conduct, especially one held by a specific person or society." If 96.6 percent of the population self-identifies as straight, who do you think is defining society's values and principles? In other words, gay people don't have a say in society's definition of morality.

According to the website speakforthem.org, suicide is the leading cause of death among gay and lesbian youth nationally. Thirty percent of young homosexuals attempt suicide near the age of 15 and it has been estimated that 1,500 gay and lesbian youth commit suicide every year, according to a 2009 report of the American Psychological Association. Two out of three Americans believe gay people commit suicide at least partly because of messages coming out of churches and other places of worship, according to CNN. Yet conversion enthusiasts insist they're only trying to help those they're calling fundamentally damaged and in need of their kind of repair.

Procedures therapists have used to try and change sexual orientation and gender identity by inducing nausea and vomiting. The individual snaps an elastic band around the wrist when aroused by same-sex erotic images or thoughts; using shame to create aversion to same-sex attractions; orgasmic reconditioning; and satiation therapy.

Other techniques include trying to coach patients' behavior to be more stereotypically feminine or masculine which clearly worked for the Village People; using hypnosis to try to redirect desires and arousal, and other techniques including teaching heterosexual dating skills. Because there's nothing more exciting for a guy trying not to like guys, than trying to pick up girls.

A World Health Organization report calls the therapy "a serious threat to the health and well-being - even lives - of affected people." Robert L. Spitzer, a psychiatrist who initially endorsed the practice in a study in 2001 said to the New York times, " I owe the gay community an apology." He had once compared homosexuality with other conditions defined as disorders, like depression and alcohol but later retracted himself.

The only thing gay conversion therapy does is exacerbate anxiety and self-hatred among those treated. It pushes a lot of those kids to the edge and left sometimes with no choice but to check out from a world where they were told they don't belong. Gay conversion therapy has already been banned in California and New Jersey but it is very much alive though in the rest of the country, where these demented people can say with impunity those kids are abnormal.

But if these zealots don't care what scientists say, perhaps they'd listen to a saint: St. Anthony the Great said, "A time is coming when men will go mad, and when they see someone who is not mad, they will attack him, saying, 'You are mad; you are not like us.' "

It is time for those people to let go of their fears, drop their bibles and join the party because anyone who ever been to a gay parade knows that nobody party as hard as gay people.

SARA ALMALLA, VALLET STAR

NO GAY ALLOWED - "This is my house, no more fooling around with your friend Timmy, now go inside the box and be a good boy."

Not just Proctoring classes

■ **Goody for Bruin biology student-turned-star of Valley's "Crucible" production.**

BY YESENIA BURGARA
STAFF WRITER

Dwain Duran, 23, graduated from UCLA in 2013 with a degree in biology. So now, of course, he's pursuing an acting career at Valley.

"I definitely enjoyed [biology] while I studied it. It gave me a very good education in terms of understanding the world, understanding life, and understanding myself, but career wise it's not really where my heart was," said the Monarch theatre student as he prepared to play protagonist John Proctor in Valley's upcoming production of "The Crucible."

He was halfway through his biology degree when he realized acting was his passion. It all began with a shared interest that he and his father had for film and television.

"We would imitate our favorite actors and quote their movies, to the point that it became almost like our own form of communication," he said.

The two especially enjoy quoting favorite comedians such as Will Ferrell, Mike Myers and Jim Carrey, particularly from "Dumb and Dumber."

While at UCLA, Duran was in a dramatic television pilot, "Double Blind," and was a part of two Latino student productions for "Noche de Cultura" (Spanish for a night of culture).

Duran is now a personal trainer at UCLA and a bartender for a private company. He works in the mornings so he has evenings free for rehearsals and acting classes.

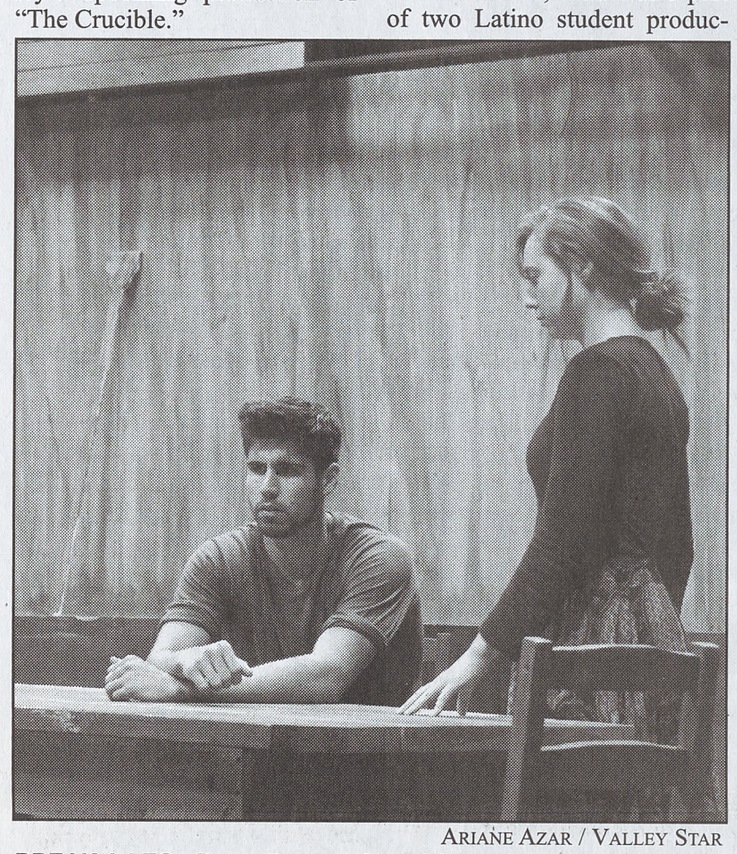
"There's a unique quality to watching a production live and in-person because the drama is occurring right in front of you. You can feel the emotion onstage and we can feel yours too. Altogether it creates this very real experience that differs from a movie or television screen. Everyone becomes involved in the telling of this story and you walk away with your own message."

It is his second semester at Valley and after joining the theater program, "The Crucible" will be his first performance at Valley. The role of John Proctor represents the lone and outspoken "good" man who unknowingly sparks a spiral of histeria.

Although Duran's educational path did not begin with theater, he plans to pursue what truly makes him happy:

"I'm comfortable with just doing what I like, if it's on television, or in film. I don't care. I'm not crazy about the Hollywood scene, fame and all that stuff. I'd much rather make a comfortable living, picking and choosing the actors I want to play."

"The Crucible" opens March 19 and will be performed through March 22 at Valley's Horseshoe Theater. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m. Tickets are $12.00 if purchased in advance at Brown Paper Tickets and $15.00 if purchased at the door.



ARIANE AZAR / VALLEY STAR

BREAK A LEG - Dwain Duran (left) and Austin Boyce rehearsing Act II Scene I for Valley's production of "The Crucible."

CAMPUS STYLE

She goes out with a bang

■ **Docs and kimonos for a Bohemian rhapsody.**

BY MONESSA CHAHAYED
ONLINE EDITOR

Boho-chic Genesse Escobar is not afraid of fashion risks like her style inspirations: Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen.

Escobar wears a silvery-blonde bob with baby bangs. A friend of hers in beauty school hooks her up with a cut and color. Pinup-style bangs are not for everyone, but Escobar pulls them off effortlessly.

The 21-year-old's favorite stores include Urban Outfitters, American Apparel, and select thrift stores such as Buffalo Exchange and Wasteland. She zeroes in on black or neutral bohemian-style items. One of her favorite things to wear right now: kimonos.

"I have a lot of kimonos, ones that are just about knee-length," she said.

On a typical day, the child development major will pair a kimono with her favorite "AHS: Coven"-esque hat and a chunky necklace. Inspired by the Olsen twins' baggy-grunge look, she also loves cardigans and shawls. We caught her on an off-day wearing an oversize thrifted navy blue cardigan over a grey ribbed maxi dress (tied at the knee) with a borrowed black scarf and black Doc Marten's.

Escobar says Tumblr influences her style greatly in that she will reblog everything fashion-wise that inspires her. She also follows YouTube beauty and style gurus SoothingSista and clothesencounters for their videos on hair, makeup and fashion. Even though the store is out of her price range, Free People motivates her to find similar pieces for a lot less:

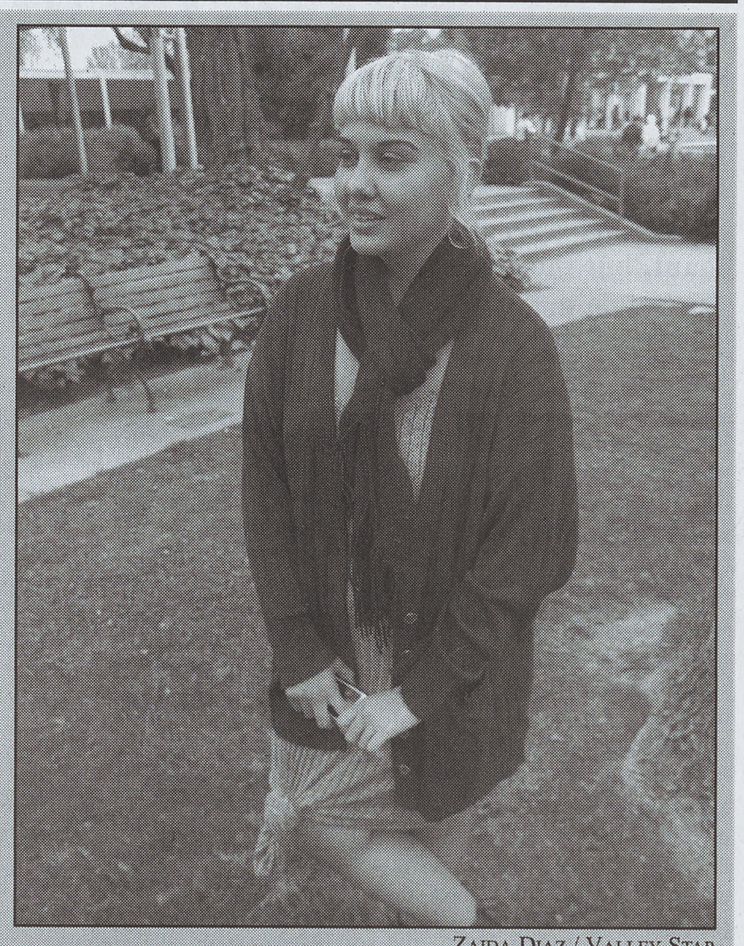
"I love Free People, but it's too expensive. I like the short chiffon babydoll dresses."

A babydoll dress from Free People can cost anywhere from $100 to $300. Escobar is on a mission to look good while saving money. That chunky necklace retails at Urban Outfitters for about $80. Escobar found hers at Forever 21 for $12.

"You need to go to the right places at the right time," she said.

When the newly 21 year old is not shopping, she will spend time going to bars in San Diego with a friend who lives there. The indie scene drew her in, where she found one of her favorites, Livewire, an old-school rock bar.

Genesse Escobar Likes:
TV Shows: American Horror Story, Bates Motel
Inspirations: Olsen twins.
Brands: Urban Outfitters, American Apparel.



ZAIDA DIAZ / VALLEY STAR

SPOTTED! - Genesse Escober bundles up on a gloomy day.

The faces tell a forgotten tale

■ **Central Library exhibit recognizes African-Americans who served in the Civil War.**

BY JORGE BELON
MANAGING EDITOR

A full-bearded African-American sergeant sits in his full Union cavalry uniform with his saber sleeping on his lap. Across from him is a picture of a private who is no older than 16. The young soldier wears a typical Army uniform and has a weary expression; it's looks as if he is ready to fight and possibly die. Parallel to him is a sergeant, who is a part of an artillery regiment. Unlike the first two, however, his name has not been lost: Sgt. Tom Strawn.

These are just three portraits from the compelling "African-American Military Portraits from the American Civil War" in the Getty Gallery in the Central Library until April 4. The exhibition opened on Jan. 20; it is provided by the California African American Museum (CAAM) from selected images from The Library of Congress and other collections.

"The African American Military Portrait exhibit is not an exhibit of the war in general, but more focused upon the forgotten individual soldiers who fought the war," said CAAM Exhibition Supervisor Edward Garcia in a filmed interview.

There are pictures of faces of soldiers, cooks, officers, drummer boys, and doctor assistants from every military branch in service during the Civil War. The ages of these proud men vary, from 40s to right before their teenage years.

As one stops to look at the cavalry sergeant that stares through the portrait with his battle-scarred eyes, they are greeted by two chilling songs playing: "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" and "Ashokan Farewell."

"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" popular among slaves, which many of these men once were. Hoping to climb the "ladder" out of their captivity they found themselves elevated to fighting the deadliest war in American history. "Ashokan Farewell" was composed 117 years after the Civil War, but become associated with the war after Ken Burns's documentary, "The Civil War" used it.

The songs almost make the silent voices of Sgt. Strawn and the boy private echo off the walls.

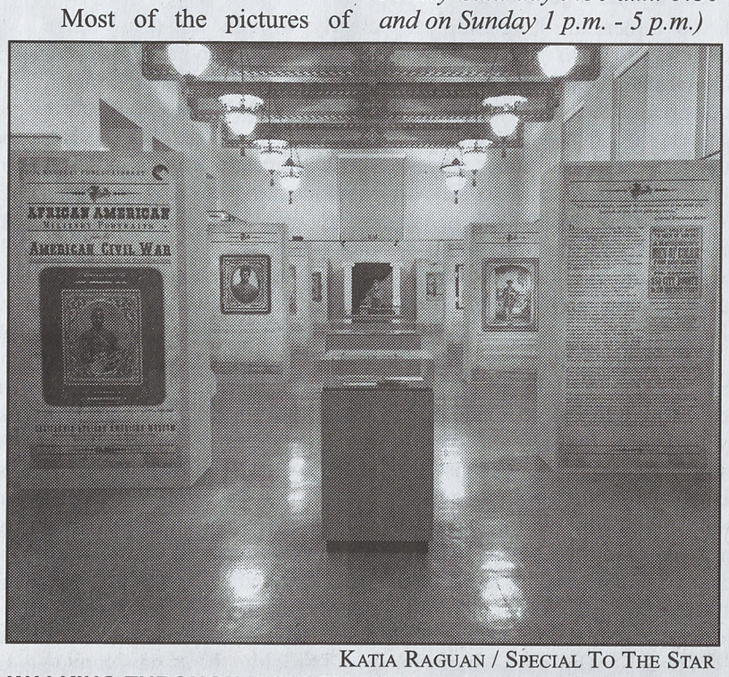
For many years their struggle was hidden deep in the torn up, dusty pages of history. It is 150 years since the last musket was fired in the Civil War, and only recently have there been exhibits, books and movies like "Glory" (The story of the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry) that chronicle their efforts.

Most of the pictures of the men in the exhibit have no names, although there are a few whose identities survive like Sgt. Strawn. One that will linger in the mind is a young boy named Nathan Jones. There is no history of him after the war. In the picture, he is wearing a union infantry cap. He looks sad, but we have no way of knowing his story; we can only speculate.

The story of Strawn has also been lost. He was a Sgt. in Company B, of the 3rd U.S. Colored Troops Heavy Artillery Regiment, after that there is nothing.

For most of these men there is almost no way of knowing if they survived during the war, but exhibitions such as these at least bring something of their memories back to life.

The exhibit is free and open the same hours as the library: Monday-Sunday (Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday 9:30 a.m.-5:30 and on Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.)



KATIA RAGUAN / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

WALKING THROUGH HISTORY - "African-American Military Portraits from the American Civil War" reveals hidden heroes.

Americans eat 100 acres of pizza each day.

That's 2,400 pizzas a minute. 350 slices a second. Delicious. Learn even more earning a bachelor's degree from National University. Online. On campus. Non-profit.

Don't think you have time to learn something new? You just did.

Woodland Hills Campus
6300 Canoga Avenue
(818) 932-2460

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Keep learning at nu.edu/transfer

© 2015 National University NU15_2089

SOFTBALL

Maya Kay/Valley Star

CLOSE CALL- Valley College pitcher Angelique Ramos sliding to scond base but Santa Monica College second baseman Emily Munoz looking to tag her out in Tuesday double header against SMC.

Lady Monarchs bring a chisel in the first game and a hammer in the second

■ Valley College sweeps Santa Monica College at home in a double header.

By Jorge Belon
Managing Editor

On a sunny afternoon, Valley College scored a combined 21 runs in two games against Santa Monica College (SMC) at their temporary home, Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex . The Lady Monarchs on March 10 swept the doubleheader to improve to a 3-0 conference record and 9-6 overall.

"This team's energy is amazing," said Valley shortstop Nelly Sepulveda. "We always pick each other up when it is rough. Somehow we always come back in the last innings - it's pretty amazing."

Valley broke the first-game deadlock in the bottom of the fifth frame with two runs from hard line drive hits plating third baseman Katherine Auduray and first baseman Anna Belle Guillen.

Santa Monica came right back and scored four runs in the top of the sixth on Valley's only three errors of the game (two dropped infield popups and a mistimed throw).

In the bottom of the seventh, still trailing 4-2, the Monarchs had pinch runner Erika Rebollar on third base and catcher Cristina Colon on second with one out. On a one-strike count, Sepulveda smacked the ball over Santa Monica's second baseman into center field. Rebollar scored, Sepulveda and Colon taking second and third to set up the potential winning run.

Pinch hitter Janaiya Sarsbury wasted no time, whacking a line drive past the Corsairs' first baseman's foot to complete the 5-4 comeback victory.

In the second game, Valley completed the sweep.

They turned the nightcap into a laugher with six runs in the first and at least one tally in every inning. Colon, Sepulveda and Auduray each hit in-the-park homers. Starter Angelique Ramos was perfect until Santa Monica registered two hits in the fourth.

The game ended after the top of the fifth due to the "mercy rule" with Valley winning, 16-0.

"It was our mindset that made the difference in the second game," said Valley center fielder Sabrina Juarez. "We did not come fully prepared and focused mentally in the first game, but we still got the job done."

However, the Lady Monarchs would fail to ride the momentum on the road, as they lost to Antelope Valley College 6-1 on Thursday and fell to 3-1 in conference and 9-7 overall. Their next game will be on the road against conference opponent Bakersfield College Renegades at 2:30 p.m.

Additional content online - Go to www.thevalleystar.com

MEN'S SWIM & DIVE

Coach won't be satisfied with just treading water

■ Monarchs water polo, swim and dive Head Coach Jim McMillan's has been on campus for a decade and the program is now starting to flourish.

By Kevin Buckles Jr.
Editor in Chief

Even before donning his signature straw hat and dark sunglasses at the pool, Jim McMillan always starts game days with a saying.

" 'It's a beautiful day, and I feel great today.' I always said it as a player and still do as a coach," said Valley College's men's swimming and water polo coach. "It just kind of sets the day off as 'It's going to be a positive, good, mental and physical day.' "

His persistent optimism has paid off as the three-time Western State Conference (WSC) Coach of the Year has enjoyed an illustrious career as a swimmer, water polo player, and coach, leading teams to championships as an All-American player and building successful programs as a coach. However, water sports were not first on McMillan's agenda.

"As a kid I wanted to play basketball for [former 10-time NCAA Championship UCLA Basketball Coach] John Wooden," said McMillan. "He was my dream."

When he realized he was most likely too short to pursue a collegiate basketball career, McMillan decided to apply Wooden's coaching philosophies to the pool when he became a coach himself.

"What I learned most from [Wooden], was to be a teacher first," said the award-winning coach. "That's what we consider ourselves as coaches. Also, just to get everybody to work hard and come together for a common goal, which is a life lesson."

That common goal was achieved last fall for McMillan and the Monarchs when the water polo team clinched its conference for the first time in the program's history. A year and a half prior, McMillan coached the swimming team to five school records.

"We've produced 10 All-American swimmers since I've been here, and around 10 water polo All-Americans as well," said McMillan. "We're on track."

After taking up water polo in his freshman year of high school at Foothill in Orange County, McMillan, already a basketball player and swimmer, immediately excelled, becoming a two-time All-American. He went on to play at Santa Ana Community College, where he was also an All-American, before transferring to Division I Pepperdine, where he was a two-year starter and helped lead the team to a conference championship and a third-place finish at the NCAA Tournament.

After concluding his collegiate playing career, the Orange County native relocated to Sydney, Australia where he played one season for a professional water polo team before coming home. Upon his return, he was asked to turn a club water polo team to a Division I program at Loyola Marymount University, where he also became a head coach for the first time. When he left the program after four years, he had built it into the nation's 15th-ranked team.

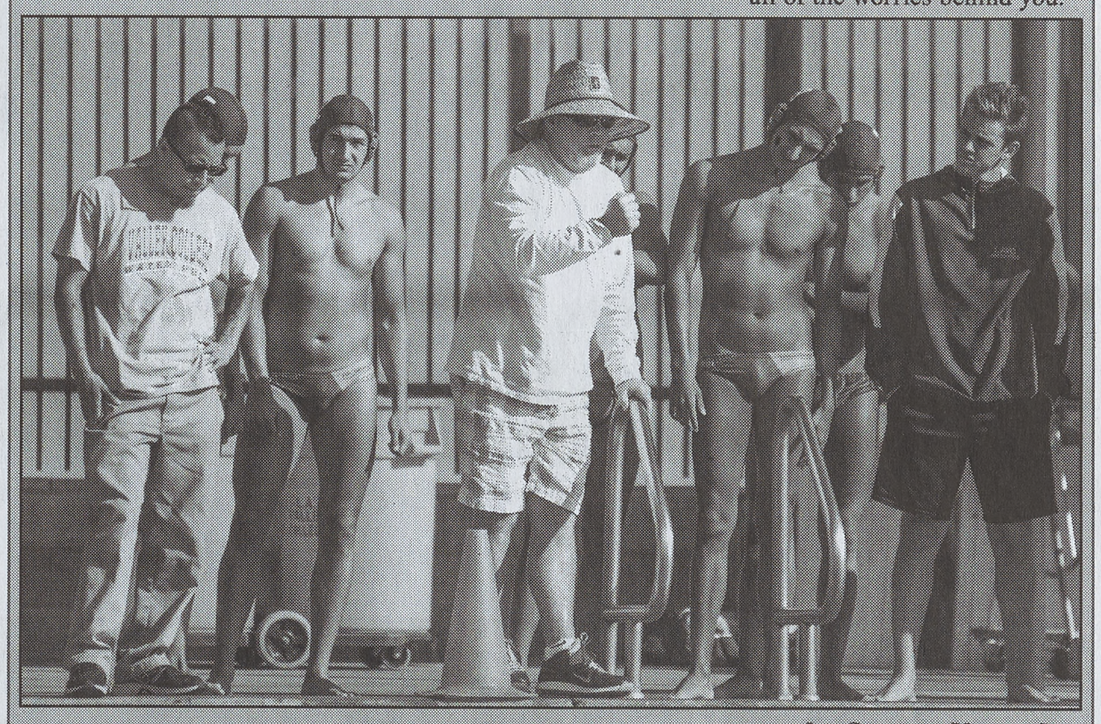
"What I learned most from [Wooden] was to be a teacher first."

He left to coach his alma mater, Pepperdine University, for the next 12 years — leading them to a national championship in 1997 over USC.

"It was time for a change though," said the coach referencing departing Pepperdine en route to becoming Valley's coach. "At the community college level I think you can really help boys develop into men and I really believe that's my job as a teacher first and then a coach."

As far as McMillan, the athlete, he admits that he doesn't get in the water as much as he should nowadays.

"[In the water] you escape and forget about everything else, and just cruise on a beautiful day," he said. "You just put all of the worries behind you."



Jay Gilliland/Valley Star

REWRITING THE RECORD BOOKS - Monarchs Head Coach Jim McMillian (Center) guided his water polo team to the programs first Western State Conference Men's Water Polo Championship last semester.

Sports Briefs

■ MLB

Former Los Angeles Dodgers Manager Tommy Lasorda has been retired for a while now but he has been keeping busy. Not just in the world of baseball but now with singing and dancing as well. He is recorded performing DJ Snake's and Lil Jon's song called "Turn Down for What" and posted the video on his Instagram, "tommy2lasorda."

■ NBA

The seventh-place Los Angeles Clippers will be in action three times before the start of next week, twice at home. The Clipper's first game will be on the road against the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Their next two will be at the Staples Center. The first game will be against the Washington Wizards on Friday at 7:30 p.m. The final opponent will be the final opponent will be the New Orleans Pelicans on Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

■ NHL

The Los Angeles Kings will travel to the Honda Center and face the rivals Anaheim Ducks on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. For the Ducks, a victory would help secure best record in the NHL. Currently the Ducks are tied with the New York Rangers with 95 points.
The Kings are fighting to finish a respectable 2-3 against their rivals. LA is also currently attempting to catch the Calgary Flames for third place in their group and get a guarantee spot in the playoffs.

■ NFL

The San Fancisco's 49ers nightmare off-season continues as top rookie linebacker Chris Borland retires at 24, due to fear of long term head trauma, according to the "Outside the Line" interview.

■ MLS

The 20th Major League Soccer season is in full swing and Commissioner Don Garber is getting ready to announce the next expansion team to join MLS. The original plan is to have 24 teams playing in the top tier of soccer in America by 2020, according to MLSSoccer.com Minnesota United FC is in "advanced discussions" of becoming the 23rd expansion team.

■ Global Soccer

On Wednesday the CONCACAF Champions League semifinals begins, as the Montreal Impact will be facing L.D. Alajuelense at Olympic Stadium in Canada.

Monarchs Sports Calendar

■ Baseball (10-7-1)

@Los Angeles Mission College- Thursday 3/19 vs. Mission (9-4), 2:30 p.m.
@Los Angeles Mission College- Thursday 3/21 vs. Mission (9-4), 1 p.m.
@West Los Angeles College- Tuesday 3/24 vs. West LA (4-16), 2:30 p.m.
@West Los Angeles College- Thursday 3/26 vs. West LA (4-16), 2:30 p.m.
@College of the Canyons- Friday 3/24 vs. Canyon (12-6), 7:30 p.m.
@Oxnard College- Tuesday 3/31 vs. Oxnard (13-4-1), 2 p.m.
@Oxnard College- Wednesday 4/1 vs. Oxnard (13-4-1), 2 p.m.

■ Softball (9-7)

@Bakersfield College- Thursday 3/19 vs. Bakersfield (8-6), 2:30 p.m.
@Citrus College- Tuesday 3/24 vs. Citrus (14-5), 1 p.m.
@Valley College- Tuesday 3/24 vs. Citrus (14-5), 3 p.m.
@College of the Canyons- Thursday 3/26 vs. Canyon (12-3-1), 2:30 p.m.
@Pershing Park Softball Complex (Santa Barbara Bash at the Beach)- Saturday 3/28 vs. Golden West College (6-16), 12 p.m.
@Pershing Park Softball Complex (Santa Barbara Bash at the Beach)- Saturday 3/28 vs. East Los Angeles College (9-10), 3:45 p.m.

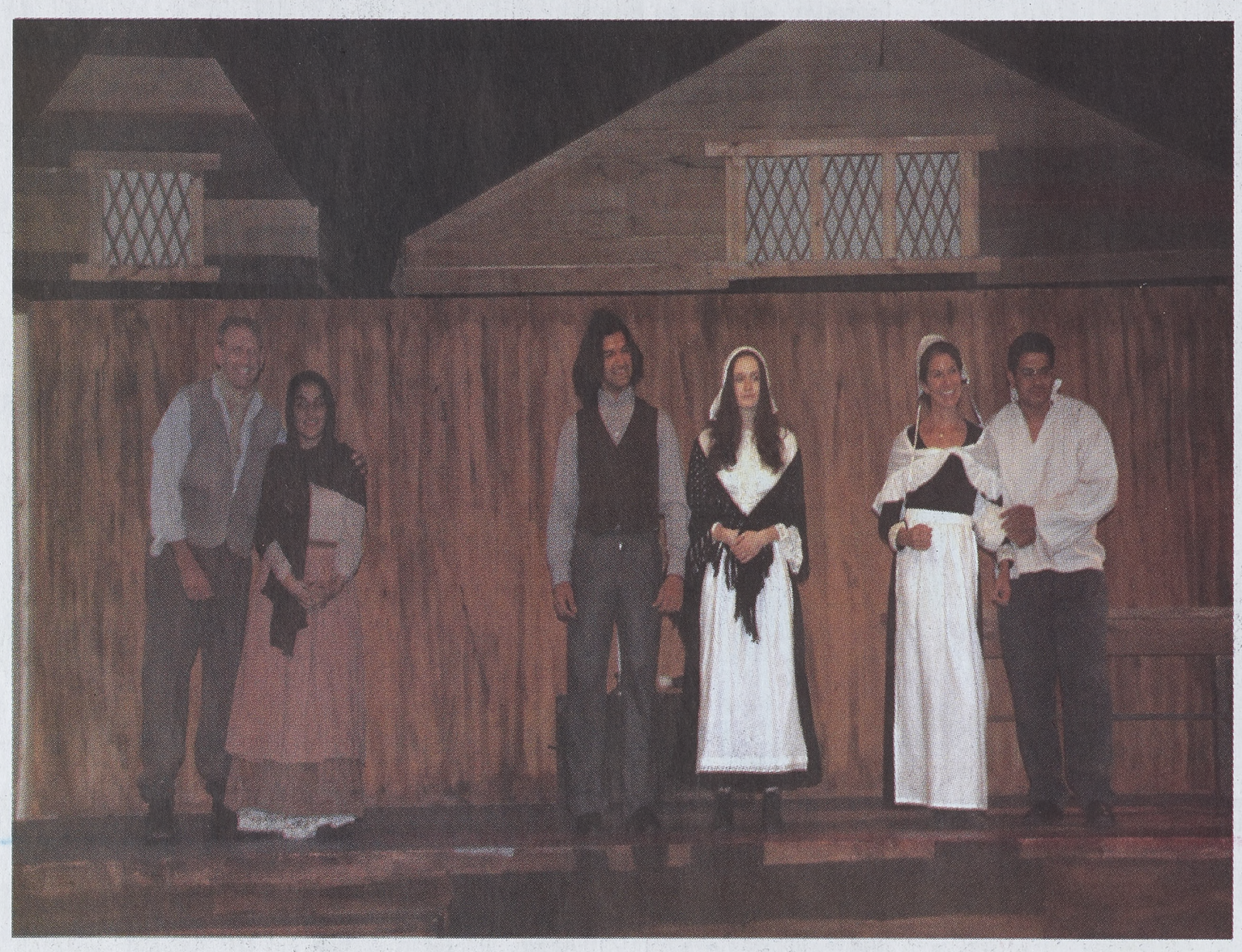
■ Women's Swiming & Diving

@Valley College- Saturday 3/22, Western State Conference Dive Meet # 3, 10 a.m.
@Pierce College- Friday 3/28, Western State Conference Swim Meet # 3, 7:30 p.m.

■ Men's Swiming & Diving

@Valley College- Saturday 3/22, Western State Conference Dive Meet # 3, 10 a.m.
@Pierce College- Friday 3/28, Western State Conference Swim Meet # 3, 7:30 p.m.

Behind the curtains at "The Crucible"



COSTUME PARADE - Mark Belisle, Charlotte Marcoulis, Vincent, Vira Sovyuk, Ann Kriss, and Gilbert Ruiz showing off their 1600's fashion during the "Costume Parade" at the tech rehearsal.

FIXER UPPER - Costume designer Sammy Jo Bogart repairing costumes.

RUNNING LINES - Actresses Austin Boyce and Ann Kriss reviewing their lines backstage.

WORDS BY
MONESSA CHAHAYED

PHOTOS BY
ARIANE AZAR

The Valley Collegiate Players and the Valley Theater Department are preparing for the upcoming production of Arthur Miller's "The Crucible."

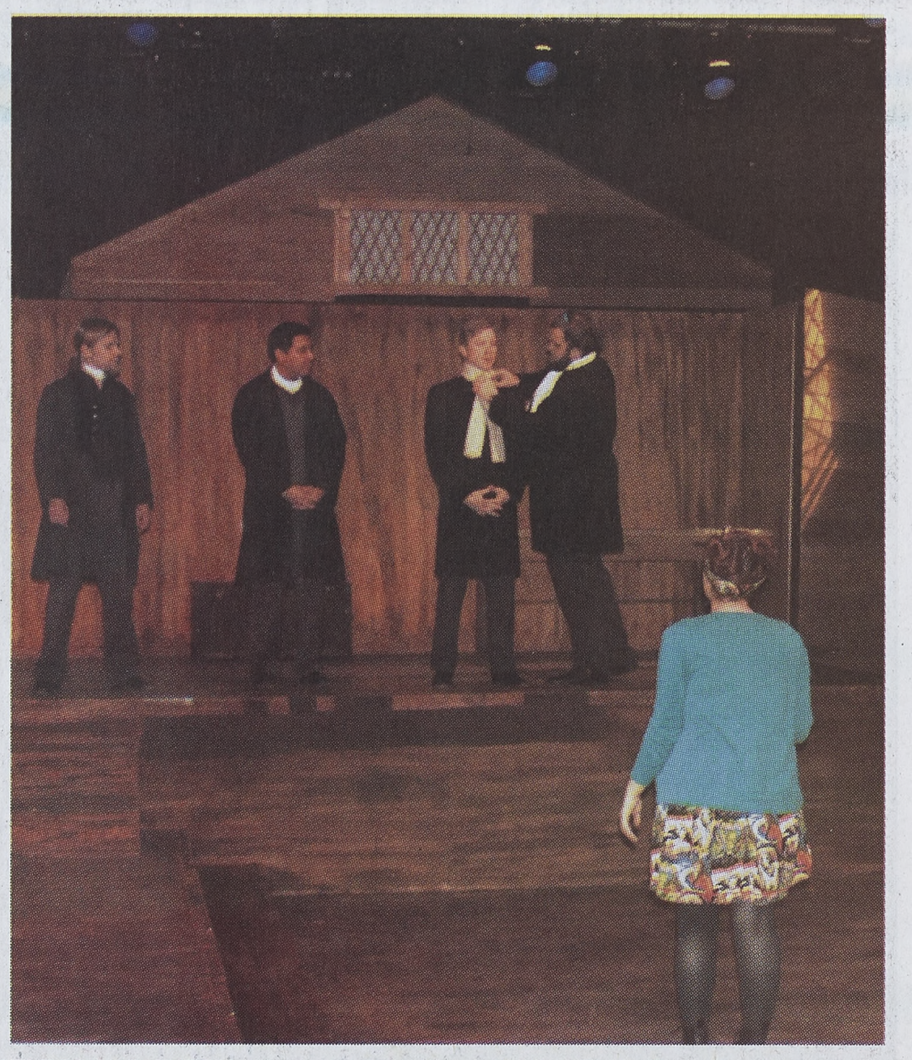
The landmark1953 play is set during the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts Bay in the 1600's.

The play is directed by Matt McLaughlin and produced by Ben Hernandez.

The cast includes Austin Boyce, Ann Kriss, Mark Belisle, Charlotte Marcoulis, Vincent Vira Sovyuk, and Gilbert Ruiz with Dwain Duran as John Proctor.

"The Crucible" opens Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. and continues Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 20-22. All performances are in the Horseshoe Theater. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m. Tickets are $12 in advance on brownpapertickets.com and $15 at the door.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS - Crew member Ashley Heisler adjusting the sound and light board backstage.



WARDROBE CHECK - Yonie Westberg Laudah, Mike Rivas, Peter Nuoffer, and Nick Goodreau showing their costumes to Costume Designer, Sammy Jo Bogart.